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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Attorney Machen to Host Youth Summit on Friday, Calls for “Breaking the Silence on Youth Violence” - Free Program is at THEARC in Southeast Washington -

WASHINGTON - U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia are hosting a youth summit on Friday, June 24, 2011, at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE.

Teenagers from the District of Columbia are invited to the free program, which runs from 3 to 6 p.m. In addition to a youth-led discussion on the topic of “Breaking the Silence on Youth Violence,” participants in the day's events will be treated to free food and prizes.

The goal of the summit is to “deal with the real” and address the senseless violence surrounding youth. Youth exposure to violence - whether as victims or as witnesses - is often associated with long-term physical, psychological and emotional harm. Children exposed to violence are also at a higher risk for criminal behavior later in life and are vulnerable to becoming part of a cycle of violence. The program is meant to educate youths on how they can become part of the solution and help create safer neighborhoods.

The program is being presented with assistance from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and Washington Hospital Center. It is appropriate for youths ages 13 through 17.

The youth summit is one in a series of community events sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, including town hall meetings, crime prevention presentations, and various outreach programs for people of all ages.

Additional information is available by calling the U.S. Attorney's Office at 202-252-6930 or e-mailing the organizers at dc.outreach@usdoj.gov.